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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 1, 2002

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Appropriations Committee approves spending for Monroe Street Bridge, Highway 12

WASHINGTON – U.S. Rep. George Nethercutt (R-Wash.) announced today that several high priority local projects will receive federal funding. The House Appropriations Committee, of which Nethercutt is a member, agreed to funding levels in its annual transportation spending bill. Funding for Eastern Washington includes:

U.S. Highway 12 / SR 124 improvements

\$1 million

This funding will be combined with state funds to complete Phase 2 of the seven-phase project to widen Hwy. 12 from two lanes to four. Phase 2 targets the rehabilitation of four bridges that cross a railroad spur, which experience heavy traffic from a nearby mill. Considered dangerous by drivers, the highway has seen nearly 1,000 accidents in the last 10 years.

“Highway 12 funding is a high priority for me. Upgrading the road will increase the safety of travelers, but it is also key to our economic vitality. Freight trucks account for a third of the traffic volume on this stretch of road. I believe Walla Walla, which boasts the fastest growing wine industry in the country, will see more companies move to town once there is four-lane highway in place,” Nethercutt said.

Pullman Transit

\$1.15 million

Funding this project will allow the City of Pullman/Pullman Transit to replace five of its aging buses that lacked wheelchair lifts. New buses will help keep up with growing ridership; in the last 10 years, ridership has increased 100 percent.

Monroe Street Bridge, Spokane

\$2.5 million

An important link between north and south Spokane, the bridge was the largest concrete arch bridge in the United States and the third largest in the world when it was built in 1910. This landmark is at the end of its service life, and will soon begin rehabilitation to extend its service life for another 75 years, while preserving its historic character and appearance.

“The Monroe Street Bridge is in desperate need of repair. This funding will keep a landmark alive and a vital transportation route in service,” Nethercutt said.

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New airport approach system at Omak Airport

\$2.1 million

This funding will allow Omak Airport to procure, install and maintain a Transponder Landing System (TLS). TLS is a precision approach landing system designed for use at airports where complex terrain or real estate constraints make the installation and use of a traditional Instrument Landing System (ILS) cost-prohibitive or not feasible. The TLS promotes aviation safety and economic growth by enabling aircraft to land in Instrument Meteorological Conditions at airports where such landings are not otherwise possible.

Next, the transportation spending bill will be voted on by the House of Representatives. After the Senate passes its transportation bill, a conference committee will work out differences between the two bills, before sending a final bill to the President for his signature.

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